

Message Text

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72

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 R

66617

DRAFTED BY: NEA/INS:MRARIETTI

APPROVED BY: NEA/INS:DKUX

NEA:SBUTCHER

S/S-O:JMEALUM

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R 050002Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

S E C R E T STATE 002208

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DELHI 15311 ACTION SECSTATE DEC. 31,

QUOTE

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 15311

EXDIS

EO: 11652 : GDS

TAGS: MILI, XO

SUBJECT: INDIAN OCEAN TASK GROUP

REF: STATE 252323; STATE 252333

DEPARTMENT PASS Laterally as desired

1. IN THE AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE, THE DCM CALLED ON
JOINT SECRETARY FOR THE AMERICAS TEJA DECEMBER 31,
TO DISCUSS THE INDIAN OCEAN TASK GROUP. SAYING THAT
THE AMBASSADOR HAD ASKED HIM TO GET THE INFORMATION TO
THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND DRAWING ON BOTH MESSAGES
SECRET

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UNDER REFERENCE, THE DCM MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE SECRETARY WITH AMBASSADOR KAUL AND THE
AMBASSADOR WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH HAD

DISCUSSED US INTENTIONS IN REGARD TO THE CARRIER ORISKANY. THE DCM WISHED TO PURSUE THIS MATTER FURTHER ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS.

B. PRESENT US INTENTIONS ARE FOR THE ORISKANY TO LEAVE THE INDIAN OCEAN IN MID JANUARY.

C. WE WILL NOT NOW BE SENDING ANOTHER AIRCRAFT CARRIER TO REPLACE THE ORISKANY, BUT, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE WILL BE MAINTAINING A LARGER THAN USUAL NUMBER OF DESTROYERS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. ONE OF THESE IS A NUCLEAR-POWERED FRIGATE, THE USS BAINBRIDGE, WHICH HAS ALREADY ENTERED THE INDIAN OCEAN.

D. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTENDS TO ANNOUNCE THE PRESENCE OF THE BAINBRIDGE AT NOON IN WASHINGTON ON DECEMBER 31. (TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT PASSED ON).

E. THERE IS OBVIOUSLY A CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CARRIER AND A DESTROYER ESCORT CLASS SHIP SUCH AS THE BAINBRIDGE.

F. THE DEPARTURE OF THE ORISKANY AND SEVERAL OF THE SHIPS WITH IT WILL LEAVE A DIMINISHED US PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

G. THESE MOVEMENTS OF US VESSELS SHOULD NOT, OF COURSE, BE TAKEN AS ANY INDICATION OF OUR INTENTIONS REGARDING FUTURE DEPLOYMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

2. TEJA TOOK CAREFUL NOTES AND PROMISED TO INFORM THE FOREIGN MINISTER WITHOUT DELAY. HE HAD NO COMMENT TO MAKE WHICH WENT BEYOND WHAT THE GOI HAS ALREADY SAID ABOUT ITS CONCERNS ABOUT BOTH US AND SOVIET DEPLOYMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. HE ENDED THE CONVERSATION BY NOTING THE PLANS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ORISKANY AND SEVERAL OF THE SHIPS WITH IT AND CONCLUDING THAT THIS UN-SECRET

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DOUBTEDLY MEANT THAT THE US NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN WOULD BE LESSENED.
MOYNIHAN

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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